

Season of Power | Preparing, Celebrating, Disciplining

I. God's Power

- Romans 1:20; I Corinthians 14:11; II Timothy 1:7; II Corinthians 3:18
- The Greek word translated “power” is the word *dunamis* from which we get English words like dynamite and dynamo and dynamic.
- This word can refer to physical or spiritual power of ability, power in action, and the effect of power — like a miracle.
- There is nothing He cannot do that aligns with His character. Yes, God cannot lie or sin or tempt people to sin, but that doesn't mean He's not all-powerful. In fact, His inability to do that which contradicts His godhood is actually proof of His omnipotence, not the other way around.
- If God were not infinitely powerful, He wouldn't be worthy of our worship. He couldn't be trusted to give us eternal life. He couldn't fulfill the eternal weight of what it means to be God.
- We worship God — in part — precisely because He's all-powerful.
- But the Season of Power is not just about God's character, it's also about God's deeds. God shares His power with us! This power includes, but is not limited to:
 - **The power of salvation.** Romans 1:16
 - **The power of sanctification.** Ephesians 3:16-19
- Too many Christians focus on the physical power necessary to overcome difficulty and stress. However, the Bible does not give the church those types of promises. Yes, specific physical promises of strength and power were given to the Jews as well as other Old Testament saints, but that is not what the modern church can expect.
 - Does God work miracles, cure us of illnesses, and allow some of His followers to accumulate great wealth? Yes, but that power is not promised to every believer.
 - The promises of power in the New Testament focus primarily on the spiritual power necessary to obey God.
 - And that's why many people avoid that particular application of God's power in their lives.
 - It's nice to imagine God casting down the political figure I don't like, or healing me, or giving me the power to speak in tongues . . . those are all exciting and comfortable and cool. But the expectation that I use the power of God to submit to His expectations on my life feels restricting and lame to those who do not truly understand the Almighty King of the universe.
 - This is not only a powerful work of God transforming a sinful human into a perfected child of the King, this is also a celebration of the fact that God calls on us to put His power to work in our own lives.
 - Sanctification does not progress as quickly from Christian to Christian. There is a personal responsibility and cooperation in which each believer is required to participate. God is not necessarily tinkering in us against our will like a mechanic overhauls a car. He calls us to access His power and participate in the process of sanctification.
 - So, during the Season of Power we celebrate the power of God because that's Who He is, but it's also what He's done, and what He shares with us. Because He is all-powerful, He is worthy of our allegiance, and because He gives us all the power we need, we can follow Him in a way that glorifies Him.

II. Preparation

- Make sure to prepare your hearts, your spaces, and your disciples. This includes downloading our Season of Power Bible Reading and glorying in the awesomeness of God's omnipotence in our lives.
- We should also then prepare our spaces to worship God from June through August by setting up biblical memorials throughout our houses, classrooms, churches, and workplaces, and on our Celebration Walls.
- And we can start the discipleship process by inviting fellow Christians to participate in the preparation with us.
- Read the Word together, pray together, and challenge each other to access and use the power that God promises.

II. Celebration

- Matthew 14
- As always, care should be taken to focus on God — not just His gifts to us and the benefit we receive. Meditating on and studying God's Word should be a daily focus, as should prayer.
- But I encourage you to look for God's power on display this Season and take careful note of it. It may come in the birth of a baby or a natural disaster. It may be displayed in a miracle or the steadfast faith to overcome adversity. We may wonder at it in the salvation of a child of God or our own sanctification.
- And you should tie this celebration into each of the individual holidays we just discussed.
- Whatever you do, don't get distracted from the omnipotence of God by the impotence of Satan, the World, and the Flesh.
- In Matthew 14, Peter and the other disciples see Jesus walking on the sea of Galilee in the middle of a terrible storm. Peter asks to join His Lord, Jesus welcomes Him, and the Scriptures tell us, "*Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'*"
- The same Lord who created the waves and silenced the waves and tread upon the waves had shared His omnipotence with Peter so that he was able to tread on the waves just like the Son of God, but Peter allowed himself to be distracted from His omnipotent Lord by the comparably impotent power of the storm. May we not succumb to the same temptation this Season of Power.

II. Discipleship

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Invite other Christians to partner with you in celebrating God. Participate in the holiday with each other, do life together, and access the power of God in your sanctification as you both work out your own faith with fear and trembling as well as help the other work out their faith.
- And the entirety of the New Testament is filled with commands and illustrations of the power of the church in helping its members mature and grow and unify and strengthen.